Maryland
Department of Economic & Employment Development

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

AUGUST, 1991

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
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LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

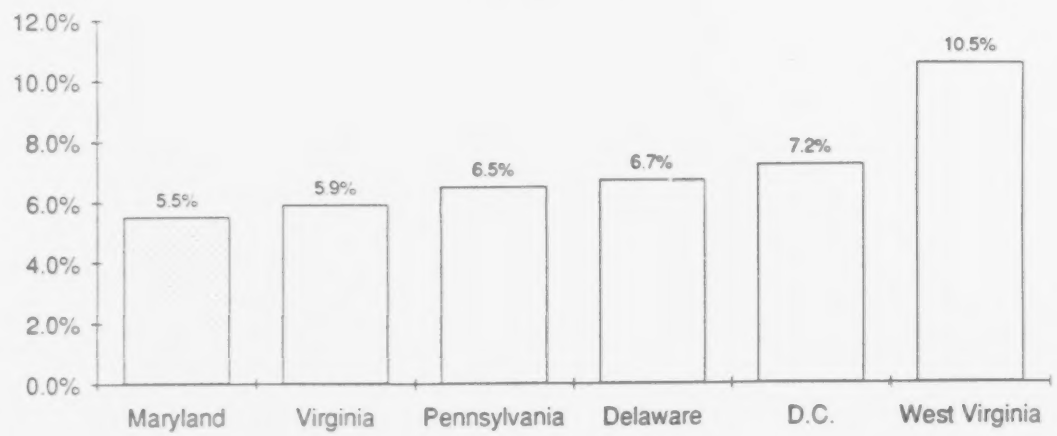
As seasonal activity began winding down, Maryland's labor market settled back, making its normal downward adjustments in August. Following a relatively large increase in July, statewide employment dropped back, with a large portion of this decline resulting from the end of temporary summer jobs. A corresponding drop in the labor force helped to offset this employment decline and, at the same time, to reduce the number of persons on Maryland's jobless rolls. While the jobless count subsided, the unemployment rate held steady at 5.5 percent in August.

Employment, while declining during August, is about 13,200 higher than last August when the recession was just beginning. Even so, a consistent pattern of improvement has yet to emerge and, with the large increase in the number of jobseekers entering the labor market over the past few months, unemployment has remained at recessionary levels. Since August, 1990, unemployment has ranged from 5.0 percent to 6.5 percent. Until economic recovery is firmly established, the unemployment level and the corresponding jobless rate will remain high.

	August 1991	July 1991	August 1990
Civilian Labor Force	2,596,055	2,627,981	2,567,774
Total Employment	2,453,696	2,483,862	2,440,473
Total Unemployment	142,359	144,119	127,301
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.5	5.0
National Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.7	5.4

On a state-by-state basis, individual reactions to the recession and subsequent phases of economic recovery have differed. While many states appear to be experiencing the same labor market problems, Maryland's jobless rate is stacking up well against those of neighboring states. For the second consecutive month, Maryland's jobless rate has been the lowest in the region. During August, its closest rival, Virginia, reported a rate of 5.9 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEIGHBORING STATES
AUGUST 1991



INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

While normal seasonal declines tempered industrial employment activity in August, lackluster economic growth continues to influence performance in a number of industry sectors. The loss of about 10,000 jobs in August resulted from a combination of factors including further reductions in education, cutbacks in tourism and other summer-related activities and unseasonably weak market conditions in the construction trades.

The services industry was the biggest contributor of job losses in the private sector, with an estimated decline of about 3,000. Slightly more than 50.0 percent of the industry descent, however, was tied to seasonal declines in educational and agricultural services and in membership organizations. In business services, a small, but unexpected, loss of 400 jobs added to the overall industry deficit. Engineering and architectural services, an industry which is heavily supported by construction activity, continued to react to the anemic business climate in construction by further downsizing during August.

Employment in trade establishments fell by 900 jobs during August, including a seasonal reduction of 500 jobs in eating and drinking establishments. Declines were also reported by auto dealers and at building material and furniture stores. Overall losses were limited somewhat by increased hiring at food and apparel stores. While lower employment levels in trade are a natural result of the end of the summer season, the economic expansion prior to the recession (1988 and 1989) extended the growth period for trade establishments. This year, however, with consumer demand still lagging, expansion beyond the summer season was checked.

The construction industry continues to be a major drag on Maryland's economy. Even with the lowering of interest rates, construction has achieved only modest success in recouping recessionary losses. During August, the industry experienced a small, but unexpected, setback. Declining by about 400 jobs through August and by about 8,000 jobs since last year, this industry has continued to struggle against a backdrop of relatively stagnant conditions in the residential and commercial market.

Finance, insurance and real estate, an industry in which employment patterns have been particularly erratic, reported additional cutbacks during August. The loss of about 600 jobs over the month brings the total employment decline in this sector since August 1990 to 2,900. Post recessionary conditions in both the insurance and real estate components have netted out to a "no growth" situation. In the finance sector, however, job increases in May and June were canceled out by subsequent declines through August. Nearly 80.0 percent of the overall industry loss since last year has resulted from layoffs in the finance sector.

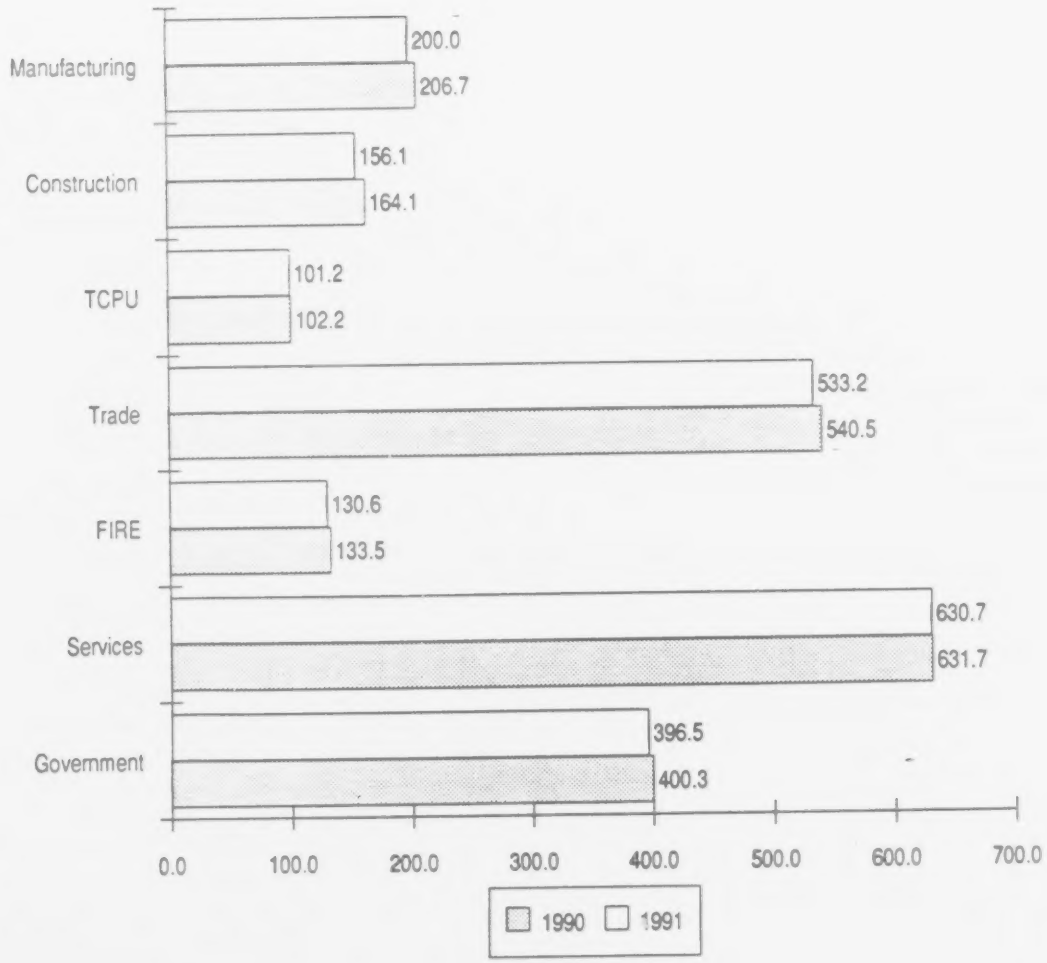
In the public sector, seasonal declines continued to diminish payrolls during August. About 9,600 fewer jobs were reported, with cutbacks occurring on federal and local levels. Declines were most prominent in local government where the end of summer school sessions reduced staffing needs on the education side and cutbacks in summer maintenance and recreation programs pared municipal payrolls.

Lastly, in manufacturing, while employment rose by about 4,400 jobs over the month, slightly more than three-fourths of this gain resulted from recall activity rather than from actual new job generation. The settlement of strike activity in the transportation equipment and beverage industries restored about 3,000 jobs to manufacturing payrolls. Recall activity following vacation shutdowns also caused employment to rise in apparels and furniture manufacturing. On a more positive note, increased business activity was reported in the printing and publishing industry. Overall employment in the manufacturing industry, currently at 200,000, is trailing well behind last August's level of 206,700.

Production workers employed in the manufacturing industry during August earned, on average, a weekly paycheck of $488.78 for a 40.8 hour workweek. In durable goods, workweeks rose by about

0.2 hours and hourly pay rates increased by $.55, adding just over $13.50 to weekly paychecks. Among durable goods producers, movements in hours and earnings were mixed. The largest increase in work schedules occurred in miscellaneous manufacturing industries where employers lengthened workweeks by about 2.2 hours. This increase in hours, coupled with a $.48 rise in hourly rates, added more than $40.00 to worker paychecks. In nondurables, workweek and earnings measurements remained virtually unchanged at 39.6 hours and $11.37, respectively. Workweeks, however, were scaled back in all nondurable lines with the exception of printing and chemical products. In printing, workweeks were lengthened by 1.0 hour and, in chemicals, overtime schedules increased slightly with the addition of 0.2 hours. While working longer hours, workers in the chemical industry saw their weekly paychecks shrink as hourly rates dropped from $12.65 to $12.46.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
AUGUST 1990 AND AUGUST 1991



MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(IN THOUSANDS)
AUGUST 1991

Industry	August 1991	July 1991	August 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,150.5	2,160.5	2,180.5
Goods Producing	358.3	354.2	372.9
Mining	2.2	2.1	2.1
Construction	156.1	156.5	164.1
Heavy Construction	18.5	18.9	20.3
Manufacturing	200.0	195.6	206.7
Durable Goods	102.1	99.3	108.6
Lumber & Wood Products	4.1	4.0	4.2
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	8.3	8.3	8.5
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	5.2	5.2	5.4
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	3.1	3.1	3.1
Primary Metal Industries	10.2	10.1	10.8
Blast Furnaces	8.5	8.4	9.1
Fabricated Metal Products	9.8	9.8	9.9
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	4.1	4.1	4.2
Other Fabricated Metal Products	4.6	4.6	4.6
Industrial Machinery	15.4	15.4	16.2
Refrigeration & Service Mach.	2.0	2.1	2.3
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment	9.3	9.3	9.4
Electronic Equipment	14.3	14.4	15.5
Communications Equipment	4.2	4.3	4.4
Electronic Component	3.5	3.5	3.9
Other Electronic Equipment	6.6	6.6	7.2
Transportation Equipment	12.5	9.9	13.8
Motor Vehicles	5.1	2.3	5.5
Other Transportation	3.0	3.2	3.5
Instruments & Related	21.9	22.0	24.1
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.7	2.6	2.7
Nondurable Goods	97.9	96.3	98.1
Food & Kindred Products	25.3	25.2	25.5
Meat Products	6.0	5.8	5.8
Beverages	3.9	4.3	4.1
Other Food & Kindred	10.4	10.2	10.5
Textile Mill, Apparel	10.0	9.6	10.2
Paper & Allied Products	9.6	9.5	9.6
Printing & Publishing	28.8	28.0	28.5
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.6	13.6	13.7
Rubber & Miscellaneous	8.6	8.3	8.5
Other Nondurable Goods	2.0	2.1	2.1

Industry	August 1991	July 1991	August 1990
Service Producing	1,792.2	1,806.3	1,807.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	101.2	101.2	102.2
Transportation	56.3	56.2	57.6
Railroad Transportation	4.4	4.4	4.7
Trucking & Warehousing	29.1	29.2	29.2
Communications & Utilities	44.9	45.0	44.6
Communications	28.1	28.2	28.4
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	16.8	16.8	16.2
Trade	533.2	534.1	540.5
Wholesale Trade	108.0	108.2	110.3
Retail Trade	425.2	425.9	430.2
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	17.5	17.9	17.8
General Merchandise	43.4	43.4	45.0
Food Stores	66.3	66.2	67.1
Eating & Drinking Places	142.2	142.7	141.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	130.6	131.2	133.5
Finance	56.9	57.3	59.2
Depository Institutions	42.2	42.4	43.6
Commercial Banks	27.3	27.4	28.2
Insurance	38.9	39.1	38.9
Insurance Carriers	25.8	25.9	25.6
Real Estate	34.8	34.8	35.4
Services	630.7	633.7	631.1
Business Services	134.1	134.5	136.6
Health Services	164.3	164.0	159.2
Hospitals	80.8	80.9	78.1
Legal Services	16.3	16.5	16.5
Educational Services	31.1	31.4	30.9
Private Colleges, Universities	16.5	16.5	16.1
Total Government	396.5	406.1	400.3
Total Federal Government	133.9	134.5	135.3
Department of Defense	48.1	48.5	47.2
Other Federal Government	85.8	86.0	88.1
Total State & Local Government	262.6	271.6	265.0
Total State Government	95.2	93.4	94.0
State Education	27.8	26.1	26.5
Other State Government	67.4	67.3	67.5
Total Local Government	167.4	178.2	171.0
Local Education	89.0	95.5	92.0
Other Local Government	78.4	82.7	79.0

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Current data preliminary; previous month revised

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

AUGUST 1991

Industry	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS		AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS	
	August 1991	July 1991	August 1991	July 1991	August 1991	July 1991
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	40.8	40.8	$488.78	$476.95	$11.98	$11.69
Durable Goods	42.2	42.0	533.83	508.20	12.65	12.10
Lumber and Wood Products	39.4	39.0	350.66	341.25	8.90	8.75
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	44.3	44.6	508.56	511.12	11.48	11.46
Primary Metal Industries	44.8	43.6	755.33	726.81	16.86	16.67
Blast Furnaces	45.5	44.2	777.60	743.00	17.09	16.81
Fabricated Metals	40.6	40.4	443.35	439.55	10.92	10.88
Industrial Machinery	41.2	41.7	522.00	532.51	12.67	12.77
Electronic Equipment	45.8	45.8	438.31	433.27	9.57	9.46
Transportation Equipment	38.6	39.2	632.27	505.68	16.38	12.90
Instruments and Related Products	42.2	40.9	565.48	539.88	13.40	13.20
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	42.2	40.0	421.16	380.00	9.98	9.50
Nondurable Goods	39.6	39.7	450.25	450.20	11.37	11.34
Food and Kindred Products	39.4	40.3	403.06	416.70	10.23	10.34
Textile Mill, Apparel	36.6	36.8	292.80	301.02	8.00	8.18
Paper and Allied Products	42.0	42.9	493.50	506.22	11.75	11.80
Printing and Publishing	37.4	36.6	532.95	506.91	14.25	13.85
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.1	41.9	524.57	530.04	12.46	12.65
Rubber and Plastic Products	41.7	41.8	419.09	420.09	10.05	10.05
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.3	41.4	$518.32	$502.60	$12.55	$12.14
Durable Goods	41.9	42.2	559.37	533.83	13.35	12.65
Nondurable Goods	40.7	40.6	477.00	472.99	11.72	11.65

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Labor force patterns in the Metro Area were similar to those statewide in that the actual number of unemployed declined yet the jobless rate remained unchanged at 6.2 percent. Locally, unemployment trends were mixed. The most noteworthy movements occurred in Carroll County where a rapidly declining labor force reduced joblessness from 5.1 percent to 4.5 percent and, in Queen Anne's County where unemployment rose in response to employment declines in the vegetable and seafood processing industries. Baltimore City's unemployment rate, at 9.0 percent in August, although considerably below its recessionary peak of 10.0 percent, was the highest rate reported locally. In Baltimore County, layoff activity of note was reported in manufacturing and transportation. Regionally, seasonal employment declines were heaviest in local government. Scattered hiring was, however, reported in amusements, business services, hotels and apparel stores.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In Maryland's D.C. suburbs, labor market conditions appeared relatively low key during August. Employment declines did result in a marginal increase in the number of unemployed, however, this increase was not substantial enough to move the jobless rate from July's level of 4.2 percent. Within the area, Frederick was the only county to show any measurable activity. The number of unemployed in the county declined by about 265 over the month, easing the jobless rate down from 5.1 percent to 4.8 percent. With this decline, Frederick's jobless rate tumbled below last August's estimate by 0.5 percentage points. Activity on the region's industrial payrolls reflected cutbacks across each industry sector, with the largest declines reported in services and government. In services, legal and engineering services accounted for about 50.0 percent of the industry downturn and, in government, seasonal layoffs at the local level were the primary source of the monthly decline.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In the Western region, a decline of 0.5 percentage points reduced joblessness to 7.7 percent in August. While labor force declines were, in part, responsible for absorbing employment losses and lowering unemployment, recall activity in manufacturing was also an underlying factor. Unemployment in the western counties, while still the highest statewide, is almost a full percentage point below last August's rate of 8.5 percent. Since August 1990, employment in the region has risen by about 1,100 while the jobless count has declined by about 820. Locally, unemployment dropped back in each of the region's jurisdictions, with the largest decline, from 9.6 percent to 8.5 percent, occurring in Garrett County. A slight shrinkage was noted in Garrett's labor force during August, however, rising employment was the primary factor responsible for reducing countywide unemployment. The benefit of recall activity was reflected on the region's industrial payrolls which showed an increase of 300 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

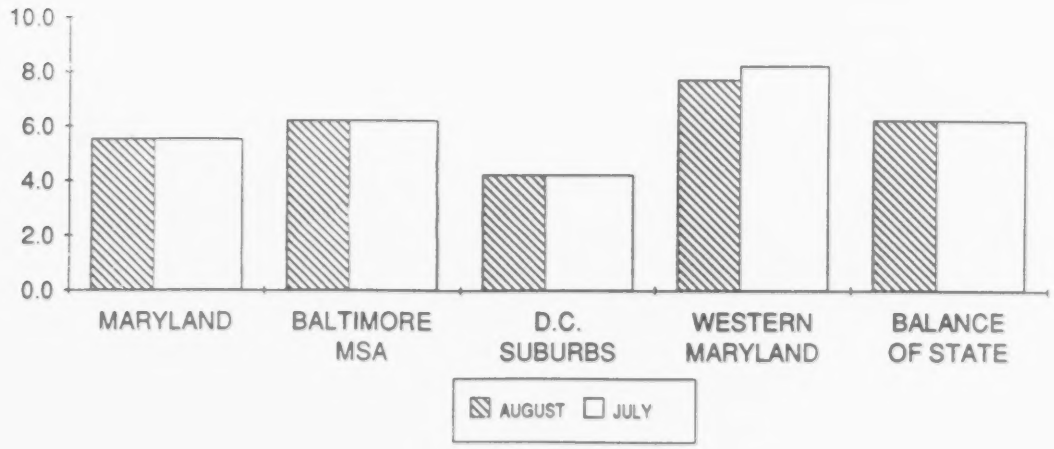
BALANCE OF STATE

On the Eastern Shore and in Southern Maryland, unemployment held at 6.2 percent in August. On a county-by-county basis, however, seasonal fluctuations were apparent. In both Dorchester and Kent counties, employment rose and unemployment declined as workers returned to manufacturing plants following vacation shutdowns. Unemployment, on the other hand, rose noticeably in both Somerset and Talbot counties. In Somerset, early layoffs in the seafood processing industry increased the burden of seasonal economics in the county, causing joblessness to rise from 7.4 percent to 7.9 percent. Talbot County's labor market was depressed by temporary layoffs in the printing industry. The unemployment rate in Talbot, while remaining one of the lowest in the region, rose to 4.8 percent in August, up from July's rate of 3.9 percent.

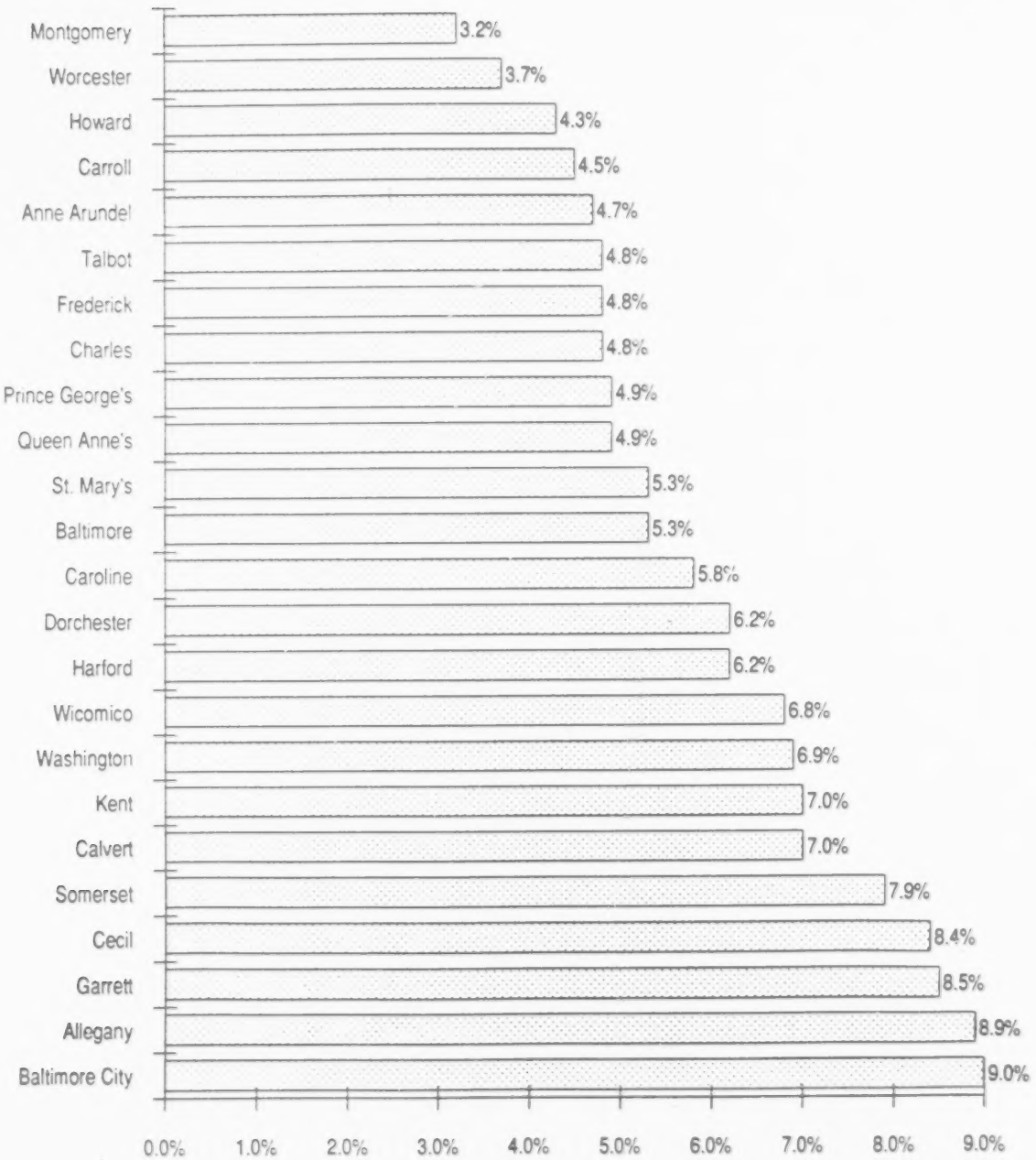
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT-MARYLAND AND REGIONS

	AUGUST 1991		JULY 1991	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
MARYLAND	142,359	5.5	144,119	5.5
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	76,659	6.2	77,525	6.2
MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS	43,197	4.2	43,174	4.2
WESTERN MARYLAND	8,525	7.7	9,207	8.2
BALANCE OF STATE	13,978	6.2	14,214	6.2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - AUGUST 1991



LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES-AUGUST 1991



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 NORTH EUTAW STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
AUGUST 1991

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	AUGUST	JULY*	AUGUST	JULY*	AUGUST	JULY*	AUGUST	JULY*	AUG. 1990
MARYLAND	2,596,055	2,627,981	2,453,696	2,483,862	142,359	144,119	5.5	5.5	5.0
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,240,460	1,259,840	1,163,801	1,182,315	76,659	77,525	6.2	6.2	5.4
BALTIMORE CITY	354,783	360,149	322,862	327,998	31,921	32,151	9.0	8.9	8.3
ANNE ARUNDEL	220,679	224,149	210,229	213,573	10,450	10,576	4.7	4.7	3.8
BALTIMORE	401,196	407,451	380,063	386,109	21,133	21,342	5.3	5.2	4.8
CARROLL	64,557	65,998	61,681	62,663	2,876	3,335	4.5	5.1	3.6
HARFORD	86,177	87,399	80,838	82,124	5,339	5,275	6.2	6.0	4.9
HOWARD	96,711	98,179	92,569	94,041	4,142	4,138	4.3	4.2	3.3
QUEEN ANNE'S	16,359	16,519	15,560	15,808	799	711	4.9	4.3	3.2
D. C. AREA	1,018,754	1,027,729	975,557	984,555	43,197	43,174	4.2	4.2	3.8
CALVERT	24,353	24,616	22,652	22,861	1,701	1,755	7.0	7.1	4.7
CHARLES	48,827	49,220	46,476	46,904	2,351	2,316	4.8	4.7	3.5
FREDERICK	78,897	79,853	75,079	75,771	3,818	4,082	4.8	5.1	5.3
MONTGOMERY	435,178	439,052	421,197	425,082	13,981	13,970	3.2	3.2	3.0
PRINCE GEORGE'S	431,498	434,988	410,153	413,936	21,345	21,052	4.9	4.8	4.4
WESTERN MARYLAND	110,527	111,648	102,002	102,441	8,525	9,207	7.7	8.2	8.5
ALLEGANY	33,308	33,582	30,335	30,475	2,973	3,107	8.9	9.3	9.7
GARRETT	14,744	14,784	13,490	13,365	1,254	1,419	8.5	9.6	8.3
WASHINGTON	62,475	63,282	58,177	58,601	4,298	4,681	6.9	7.4	7.8
BALANCE OF STATE	226,314	228,766	212,336	214,552	13,978	14,214	6.2	6.2	6.0
CAROLINE	14,863	15,030	14,002	14,158	861	872	5.8	5.8	4.7
CECIL	37,033	37,645	33,936	34,518	3,097	3,127	8.4	8.3	7.4
DORCHESTER	17,761	17,749	16,656	16,485	1,105	1,264	6.2	7.1	6.3
KENT	9,879	10,016	9,192	9,160	687	856	7.0	8.5	5.7
ST. MARY'S	44,814	45,278	42,421	42,837	2,393	2,441	5.3	5.4	4.9
SOMERSET	14,024	14,607	12,912	13,520	1,112	1,087	7.9	7.4	9.4
TALBOT	18,071	17,950	17,211	17,245	860	705	4.8	3.9	6.0
WICOMICO	40,816	40,666	38,041	37,970	2,775	2,696	6.8	6.6	6.6
WORCESTER	29,053	29,825	27,965	28,659	1,088	1,166	3.7	3.9	3.9
UNITED STATES**	126,097,000	127,327,000	117,859,000	118,751,000	8,237,000	8,576,000	6.5	6.7	5.4

*Estimates for the state are revised.
**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY--BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(IN THOUSANDS)
BY REGION--AUGUST 1991

Industry	BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA		MARYLAND PORTION D.C. SUBURBS		WESTERN MARYLAND		BALANCE OF STATE	
	August 1991	July 1991	August 1991	July 1991	August 1991	July 1991	August 1991	July 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,138.6	1,144.2	767.0	770.5	93.1	93.1	149.9	149.8
Goods Producing	199.0	196.6	100.8	101.2	22.2	21.9	34.3	33.5
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2
Construction	74.1	74.2	64.9	65.2	5.6	5.6	10.3	10.3
Manufacturing	124.4	121.9	35.4	35.5	15.8	15.5	23.8	23.0
Durable Goods	68.5	65.8	17.7	17.7	7.2	7.0	8.6	8.5
Nondurable Goods	55.9	56.1	17.7	17.8	8.6	8.5	15.2	14.5
Service Producing	939.6	947.6	666.2	669.3	70.9	71.2	115.6	116.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	56.1	56.4	33.4	33.6	5.2	5.2	7.5	7.5
Trade	265.4	266.1	197.6	198.4	26.7	26.8	41.2	41.3
Wholesale Trade	62.4	62.5	35.0	35.5	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.3
Retail Trade	203.0	203.6	162.6	162.9	21.7	21.7	35.9	36.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	74.7	75.3	45.9	46.0	3.3	3.3	5.4	5.5
Services	334.9	334.7	237.7	238.7	21.8	21.9	36.9	37.2
Total Government	208.5	215.1	151.6	152.6	13.9	14.0	24.6	24.8
Federal	51.2	51.6	74.1	74.6	1.8	1.8	7.0	7.0
State	71.8	71.5	15.9	14.4	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.6
Local	85.5	92.0	61.6	63.6	7.9	7.9	12.9	13.2

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	August 1991	July 1991	August 1990
Initial Claims	21,194	34,741	22,326
Weeks Claimed	258,505	316,652	160,821
First Payments	10,062	13,048	8,512
Final Payments	6,177	7,420	2,361
Weeks Paid	199,606	241,441	119,823
Net Benefit Amount	$35,810,212	$42,958,465	$20,414,492
Average Check Amount	$179.40	$177.93	$170.37

Following a sharp increase in July, claims activity at Maryland's local unemployment offices declined markedly in August, with reductions noted in each of the monthly workload measurements. Initial claims fell by nearly 40 percent, or by 13,547. With this decline, the number of initial claims filings dropped to its lowest level since the onset of the recession. More importantly, this is the first time this year that initial claims filings have been lower than year ago totals. In similar fashion, a drop of about 23 percent in the number of weeks claimed reduced the total count in this category to a 1991 low of 258,505. Weeks claimed, unlike initials, remained well above its year ago level of 160,821.

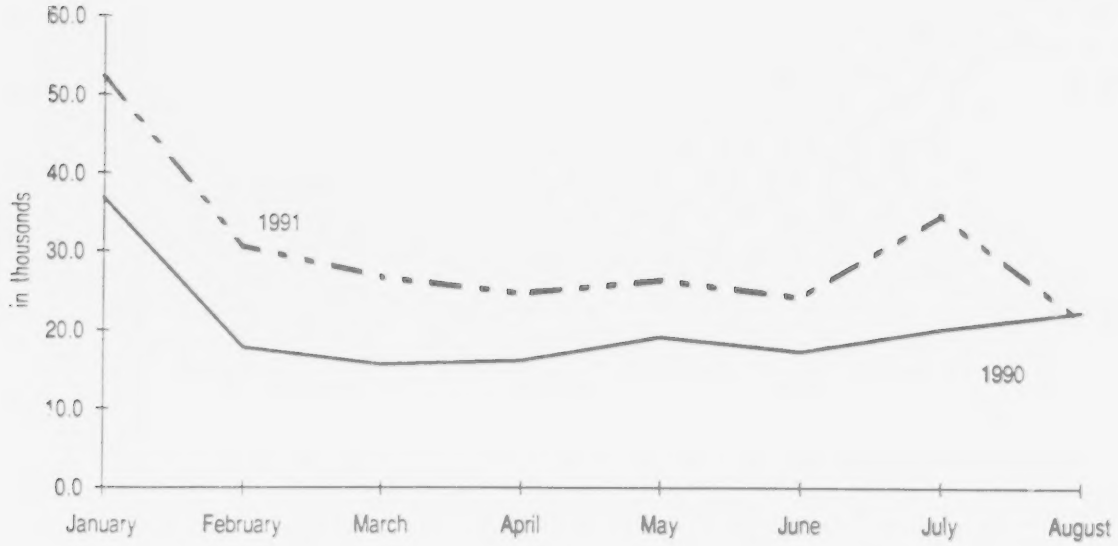
Slightly more than three-fourths of all claims filed during August resulted in compensation, with payments averaging about $179.40, up from July's benefit check of $177.93. While weekly benefit checks were higher, a decline of more than 41,800 in the number of weeks paid reduced the net benefit outlay by nearly $7.2 million over the month to $35.8 million in August. In all, about 6,177 final payments were issued during August, down from July's figure of 7,420 but more than two and a half times higher than August 1990's estimate of 2,361.

REGIONAL INDICATORS
AUGUST 1991

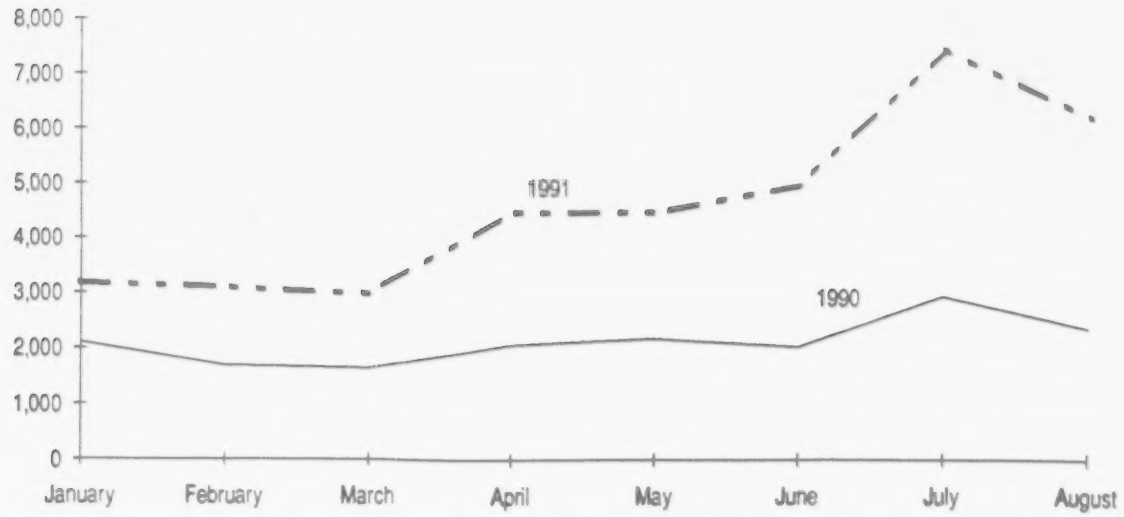
	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
First Payments	5,432	2,556	531	778
Final Payments	3,546	1,389	370	406
Weeks Paid	107,524	48,653	12,207	15,112
Average Check Amount	$178.90	$187.27	$162.08	$157.05

Claims activity declined across the state's four regions. The largest reductions occurred in the Western region where a drop of nearly 28 percent in weeks paid and 43.7 percent in final payments lowered counts in these categories to 12,207 and 370, respectively. While each region reported fewer numbers of exhaustions during August, there were four local offices with higher numbers of final payments. In the BMA, exhaustions rose in Annapolis, Towson, and Ellicott City while in the Balance of State area, final payments increased in Chestertown. For those claimants receiving benefits, check amounts rose in each region except in Western Maryland where a drop of $1.31 lowered August's weekly payment to $162.08.

INITIAL CLAIMS
JANUARY-AUGUST 1991



FINAL PAYMENTS
JANUARY-AUGUST 1991



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